Using a Wireless LAN Adapter

Your notebook model may include a wireless local area network (WLAN) adapter. A WLAN adapter enables your notebook to connect to a compatible wireless network access point or to another, compatible, wireless-enabled notebook. A WLAN adapter cannot be used to connect the notebook to a mobile telephone service, a Bluetooth wireless device, or a cordless telephone.

Setting up a wireless network requires:

- A notebook equipped with a WLAN adapter—The WLAN adapter can be integrated or a free-standing add-on, such as a PC Card.
- A wireless access point—Wireless access point functionality can be provided by a standalone device or be included with another networking device, such as a router.

Accessing the Internet through a wireless network requires:

- An Internet access device, such as a broadband cable or DSL (digital subscriber line) modem or a shared analog modem connected to a phone line.
- Service from an ISP (Internet service provider).

Hardware requirements for an Internet connection include a WLAN adapter in the notebook, a wireless access point, and a modem. (Notebook appearance varies by model.)

To use a wireless LAN connection:

1. Verify that all drivers required by the WLAN adapter are installed and that the WLAN adapter is correctly configured.

   If you are using an integrated WLAN adapter, all required drivers are installed and the adapter is preconfigured and ready for use.
2. If you are using an integrated WLAN adapter, verify that the WLAN adapter is enabled. When the WLAN adapter is enabled, the wireless device light is on. If the wireless device light is off, press the wireless device button to enable the WLAN adapter.

   To identify the wireless device light and button on your notebook, look on your notebook for the button and light identified with the wireless symbol illustrated here, or refer to your model-specific documentation.
3. Verify that your access point is correctly configured. For instructions, refer to your access point documentation.
4. When you are setting up a WLAN connection for the first time, place your notebook very near a compatible WLAN access point (or a compatible wireless-equipped computer). Functional range for subsequent WLAN connections will vary, depending on your notebook's WLAN implementation and any interference from varying types of walls and other electronic devices.
5. To configure your wireless network connection using Windows XP, follow the instructions available at Start > Help and Support.

For more information about using a WLAN connection:

- Access the information and Web site links provided at Start > Help and Support.
- Refer to the documentation included with your notebook. The *Troubleshooting* guide on the *Documentation Library* CD contains a "Wireless LAN (WLAN) Device Problems" section.
- Refer to the documentation included with your supplementary networking devices and services.

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